

LITERATURE CITED

Herring, J. L. 1980. A review of the cactus bugs of the genus *Chelinidea* with the description of a new species (Hemiptera: Coreidae). *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 82: 237-250.

Hoffman, R. L. 1975. The Insects of Virginia: No. 9. Squash, broad-headed, and scentless plant bugs of Virginia. (Hemiptera: Coreoidea: Coreidae, Alydidae, Rhopalidae). *Bulletin of the Research Division, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University* 105: 1-52.

Hoffman, R. L. 1991. *Opuntia* squash bug. Pp. 226-228 In K. Terwilliger (coord.), *Virginia's Endangered Species*. McDonald and Woodward Publishing Company, Blacksburg, VA. 672 pp.

Hoffman, R. L. 1994. Additions and emendations to the Virginia fauna of "true bugs" (Heteroptera: Cydnidae, Scutelleridae, Pentatomidae, Alydidae). *Banisteria* 3: 15-19.

Uhler, P. R. 1863. *Hemipterological Contributions*, No. 2. *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Philadelphia* 2: 361-366.

Weakley, A. S., J. C. Ludwig, & J. F. Townsend. 2012. *Flora of Virginia*. B. Crowder (ed.). Foundation of the Flora of Virginia Project Inc., Richmond, Botanical Research Institute of Texas Press, Fort Worth, TX. 1,554 pp.

Christopher S. Hobson
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Natural Heritage
600 East Main Street, 24th floor
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Banisteria, Number 43, pages 94-96
© 2014 Virginia Natural History Society

TWO ROBBER FLIES (DIPTERA: ASILIDAE) NEW TO THE VIRGINIA FAUNA, PLUS NOTES ON ADDITIONAL POORLY KNOWN SPECIES.—In 2010, I published a list of the robber flies of Virginia that included 115 confirmed species plus an additional eleven considered possible for a total of 126 (Bedell, 2010). Since that time, two species, *Orthogonis stygia* and *Leptogaster murina*, have been recorded in Virginia

raising the confirmed species to 117 for a total of 128 (neither was on my hypothetical species list). This note also updates data on six additional species that were previously documented by few records, and presents occurrence evidence that *Nicocles pictus* overwinters in the adult stage. I have maintained the same format as the 2010 paper, with species presented in alphabetical order according to subfamily, and with counties italicized.

Asilinae

Neomochtherus auricomus (Hine)

On 5 September 2013, I observed this species to be fairly common (about 20 adults observed in a 2-hour period) in the understory of second growth deciduous woods at Pocahontas State Park, *Chesterfield Co.* Perch sites included leaves of American Holly (*Ilex opaca*). Specimens and photographs (BugGuide photos #837779-80) were obtained. This species may be underreported due to its appearance late in the season.

Proctacanthus heros (Wiedemann)

This impressive species, the largest of our asilids, was included on the Virginia list based on a specimen taken in 1938. I collected a male on 18 August 2011 and observed several more at Cherry Orchard Bog Natural Area Preserve (NAP) in *Sussex Co.* Later that same day I photographed one at Chub Sandhill NAP (BugGuide photo #593537), also in *Sussex Co.* A. V. Evans collected a female at Blackwater Ecological Preserve in *Isle of Wight Co.* in a Malaise trap run from 23 September to 5 October 2010. This specimen is in my collection.

Brachyrhopalinae

Ceratargus aurulentus (Fabricius)

I took a female specimen of this apparently very rare species in Pocahontas State Park (*Chesterfield Co.*) on 5 September 2013. Habitat was second growth dry deciduous woods with low understory. In appearance and behavior, it was a very convincing mimic of a yellow jacket wasp (*Vespula* sp.). Even its flight was very unlike any asilid I know, being low to the ground and in curved patterns.

After capturing the initial specimen, I returned to the site three times before observing another and taking photographs of an ovipositing female and habitat on 11 September (BugGuide # 840074-76, 840080). My last observation (one adult) was on 2 October.

Ceraturgus aurulentus is apparently very rare, as “Fewer than two dozen specimens have been collected in the past 200 years” (Barnes, 2008). However, this species was recently also photographed in North Carolina and Wisconsin in late August and September (BugGuide.net, 2013). Perhaps its apparent rarity is at least partially a result of its remarkable mimicry and late season phenology.

Cyrtopogon lutatius (Walker)

I found this small robber fly to be localized on piles of downed deciduous logs at Pocahontas State Park, Chesterfield Co. I recorded as many as 20 adults at one site, with my earliest date being 2 May. All of my observations have been in May. Several June visits to piles of logs where they occurred earlier resulted in no sightings. I obtained two specimens, and photographed a male (BugGuide #511537).

Nicocles pictus (Loew)

The phenology of this asilid is unlike any other in Virginia. It is present throughout very early spring into May, disappearing in the summer, then reappearing in late fall. Since my 2010 paper, I have observed this species on warm days throughout the winter months, but I lack records for December. I have observed adults at Pocahontas State Park on 17 February 2011; 7 January (see photo and discussion at BugGuide #605947), 1 February, and 1 March 2012; and 9 January, 16 February, and 21 November 2013. Especially the January dates indicate that *N. pictus* overwinters in the adult stage.

Dasyopogoninae

Diogmites salutans Bromley

I had included this southeastern species based on a female record from Smithfield cited by S. Bromley in his original description (Bromley, 1936). I have since found *D. salutans* to be numerous in the power line cut at Cherry Orchard Bog NAP in Sussex Co. My observation dates range from 22 July to 21 August. I have ten specimens in my collection.

Laphriinae

Laphria sacrator Walker

This northern species was previously documented in Virginia by one record from Rockingham Co. I collected two specimens in Highland Co. from the

Bearcamp Knob area at an elevation of about 3500 feet (1067 m) on 29 June 2011.

Orthogonis stygia (Bromley) **New state record!**

On 18 August 2011, I accompanied Arthur Evans and Anne Wright on a field trip to Sussex County, including Cherry Orchard Bog NAP. The following day Dr. Evans sent me photographs of an unknown asilid he had observed at this site, which I suspected might be the very rare *O. stygia*. I forwarded the photographs (Figs. 1-2) to Dr. Eric Fisher, who immediately confirmed the identification based on the unique features of this robber fly, including shape of the proboscis, antennae, and wing venation, all visible in the photographs (E. Fisher, pers. comm.).

Numerous subsequent trips to this location to relocate *O. stygia* have been unsuccessful. I returned twice during the week following the initial discovery in 2011, then four times in 2012 (31 May, 8 and 27 June, and 22 July).

This species has been regarded as very rare since its original description from a lone female specimen from



Figs. 1-2. *Orthogonis stygia* with ichneumonid wasp prey at Cherry Orchard Bog Natural Area Preserve, Sussex Co., Virginia. Photos by Arthur V. Evans.

North Carolina (Bromley, 1931), where it has not been recorded since. However, it has been observed recently in Texas (Taber & Fleenor, 2003) and Arkansas (Barnes, 2007). All other sightings have been in June and July, so the Virginia record represents a late date. The prey item in the photographs can be identified as an ichneumonid wasp (R. Kula, pers. comm.). The habitat where *Orthogonis* was observed at Cherry Orchard Bog NAP can be generally described as a closed-canopy mesic woods, somewhat similar to the habitat described in Arkansas (Barnes et al., 2007), but the topography here is essentially flat.

Leptogastrinae

Leptogaster murina Loew **New state record!**

This is considered a Midwestern species, but there is one other record for the eastern United States from Maryland (Scarborough, 1974). I have collected *L. murina* at three sites in Virginia, including native grasslands at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant in *Montgomery Co.* (3 June 2010), an old field in *Alleghany Co.* (31 May 2010), and a site in *Goochland Co.* (16 May 2013). Three specimens from the latter site were donated to the NMNH.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Arthur V. Evans both for his companionship in the field, and for his generous donation of specimens and photographs for my ongoing study of Asilidae.

LITERATURE CITED

- Barnes, J. K. 2008. Review of the genus *Ceraturgus* Wiedemann (Diptera: Asilidae) in North America north of Mexico. *Zootaxa* 1766: 1-45.
- Barnes, J. K., N. Lavers, & H. Raney. 2007. Robber flies (Diptera: Asilidae) of Arkansas, U.S.A.: Notes and a checklist. *Entomological News* 118: 241-258.
- Bedell, P. 2010. A preliminary list of the robber flies (Diptera: Asilidae) of Virginia. *Banisteria* 36: 3-19.
- Bromley, S. W. 1931. New Asilidae, with a revised key to the genus *Stenopogon* Loew: (Diptera). *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* 24: 427-435.
- Bromley, S. W. 1936. The genus *Diogmites* in the United States with descriptions of new species (Diptera: Asilidae). *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* 44: 225-237.
- BugGuide.net. <http://bugguide.net/node/view/15740> Accessed 1 November 2013.
- Scarborough, A. G. 1974. A faunistic study of Asilidae (Diptera) at three locations in northern Baltimore County, Maryland: incidence, relative abundance and seasonal distribution. *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 76: 385-396.
- Taber, S. W., & S. B. Fleenor. 2003. Range extension, habitat, and review of the rare robber fly *Orthogonis stygia* (Bromley). *Southwestern Entomologist* 29: 85-87.
- Paul Bedell
10120 Silverleaf Terrace
Richmond, Virginia 23236
- Banisteria*, Number 43, pages 96-98
© 2014 Virginia Natural History Society
- HARRIS' CHECKERSPOT (*CHLOSYPNE HARRISII*), A NORTHERN BUTTERFLY NEW TO THE FAUNA OF VIRGINIA (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE). — Harris' Checkerspot (*Chlosyne harrisii*) is a distinctively patterned black and orange butterfly that ranges across Canada from Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island west to Manitoba and south in the United States to Ohio and northern Pennsylvania, with disjunct populations in northeastern West Virginia (Opler, 1992; Allen, 1997; Cech & Tudor, 2005). The species has one adult generation per year in early summer and the communal larvae build silken nests on the sole known hostplant, flat-topped white aster (*Doellingeria umbellata*, formerly *Aster umbellatus*). Reported habitats of *C. harrisii* include wet pastures, marshes, bogs, and damp meadows (Opler, 1992; Allen, 1997; Cech & Tudor, 2005). Allen (1997) noted that adults can be found nectaring in open or brushy upland areas and are often found along road banks.
- Although the closely related and similar Silvery Checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*) is rather common and widespread in Virginia (Clark & Clark, 1951; Pavulaan, 1997; personal observations of authors), especially in the mountains and portions of the Piedmont, Harris' Checkerspot has not been reported previously from Virginia. Allen (1997) recorded *C. harrisii* from four montane counties in northeastern West Virginia, two of which (Pendleton and Pocahontas) border on Virginia. Thus, despite the lack of documented records, it seemed possible that this species might occur in the mountains